NEWS RELEASE

MATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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NEBRASKA CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

LINCOLN, Neb., February 18, 2005 -- Nebraska feedlots, with capacities of 1,000 or more head, contained 2.35 million cattle on feed on February 1, according to the USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. This inventory was up 3 percent from last year and 6 percent above February 1, 2003.

Placements during January totaled 425,000 head, up 12 percent from 2004 but 11 percent below 2003.

Fed cattle marketings for the month of January totaled 360,000 head, the same as last year but 8 percent below January 2003. Other disappearance during January totaled 15,000 head compared with 20,000 head during January 2004 and 10,000 head during January 2003.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 2 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent above February 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004 but 10 percent below 2003.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 10 percent from 2003. Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

Access the National publication for this release at: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/livestock/pct-bbc/2005/cofd0205.pdf